

Drug Detection Dog Use in DOC Facilities
Fact Sheet

***Please note that visitors, volunteers, correctional staff, attorneys, contractors and anyone requiring entrance into a correctional facility may be subjected to a drug detection dog search.**

- Non-aggressive drug detecting dogs, generally Golden Retrievers or Labrador Retrievers, are used because of their inherent gentle natures, and will be randomly used throughout DOC facilities to help detect the presence of illegal drugs entering DOC correctional facilities. The drug detecting dogs are currently being utilized at maximum and medium security facilities at periodic intervals.
- Notifications in English and Spanish have been provided to both inmates and employees, plus signs and a video have been displayed in the visitors' lobby for viewing by everyone entering DOC facilities.
- If the drug detecting dog alerts on an individual (in the pedestrian trap), the individual will be asked to consent to a thorough search by correctional staff.
- The individual can then proceed into the facility if there are no drugs or other contraband discovered following the search.
- Consequences of an alert by the dog to the presence of drugs will result in:
 - A request for the individual to consent to a thorough search by correctional staff.
 - If an individual refuses to consent to a thorough search based on the drug detecting dog's alert, the individual will be denied entrance and immediately barred from all DOC facilities, the same as a refusal to consent to a search following a visitor's failure to pass through a metal detector. The procedures and consequences set forth in DOC's current Visiting Procedure regulations, 103 CMR 483.00 et seq., regarding consent to a search have not changed. A copy of the Visiting Procedure regulation is available on DOC's website.
 - If drugs are found, the individual may be subjected to criminal prosecution and barred from visiting DOC facilities.
 - Barred visitors may seek a review or reconsideration of their bar from the Facility Superintendent, in accordance with the current Visiting Procedure regulation.
- This initiative is part of the DOC's strategic plan to enhance security for staff and inmates, as well as to promote effective inmate rehabilitation and reentry.
- There was no particular incident that precipitated this initiative.
- Visitors with dog allergies who are concerned about their brief exposure to a DOC canine may bring a note from their medical provider, and alternate arrangements will be made.
- Despite the new medical marijuana law, marijuana is considered contraband and is not allowed inside DOC correctional facilities.
- It is the DOC's intention to utilize drug detecting dogs as part of the entrance procedures for anyone entering secure correctional facilities.